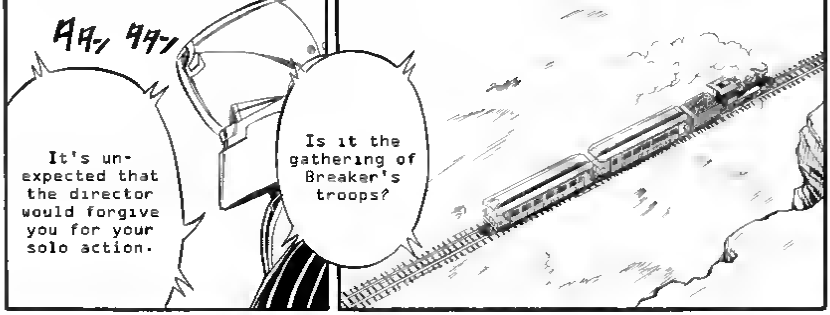
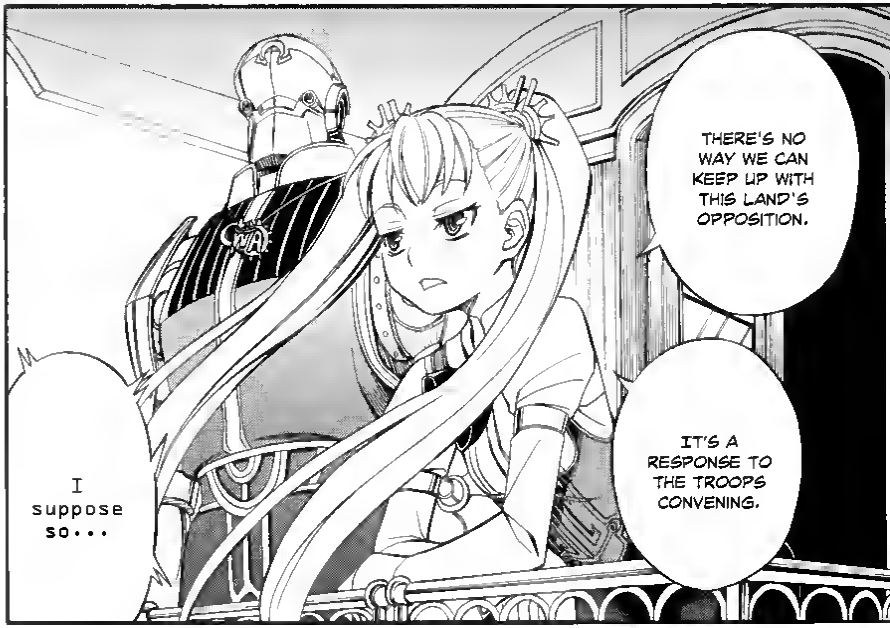
Chapter 25
Enforcement's Beacon Signal

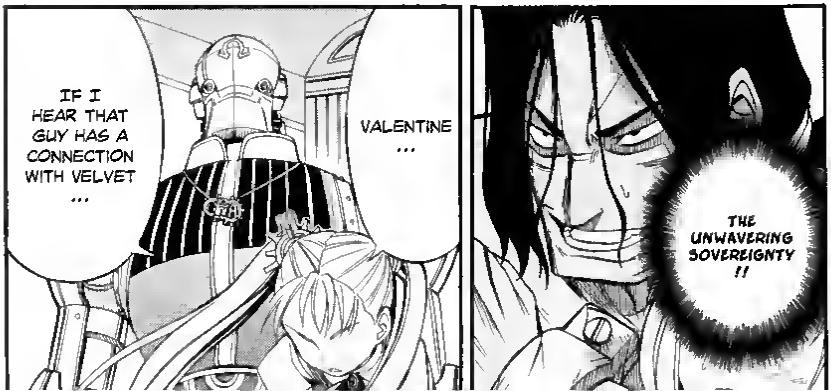
PROSENIA
PLEASE, STOP! WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! REALLY!!
SEEMS LIKE WE FOUND IT, SCAREDOLL.
THIS IS WHERE DOLLS FROM THE SEWER WERE MANU-FACTURED.
I HAVE SEEN THE DOCTOR'S PLOT OF LAND BEFORE, BUT THE FACILITY WAS ONLY FOR ASSEMBLY
YEAH, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT'S THIS FACTORY.

WHAT'S MORE INTERESTING IS THE INVOICES OF THE INCOMING SHIPMENT.
THERE IS SOMEONE WHO RECEIVED THE EXACT SAME ORDERS AS THE ONES WE FOUND IN THE MANSION AFTER THE DOCTOR HAD FLED.
HOWEVER, IT BORES ME TO SEE THAT THERE ARE NO DOLLS HERE. .
YOU'LL END UP DESTROYING EVERYTHING!
IT WAS JUST A THREAT... GEEZ...
APART FROM THAT, WHAT IS OF GREATER INTEREST IS THIS RECORD OF ORDERS GIVEN OUT.
ALTHOUGH THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE TWO LETTERS ARE DIFFERENT, IT IS NOT WRONG TO ASSUME BOTH ARE THE VERY SAME PERSON.
SINCE THEY ARE SHIPPING OUT TOMORROW AS WELL, SHALL WE ARRANGE AN AMBUSH?
TRUE
SURE, LET'S DO THAT
NOW REPORT BACK HERE AT ONCE
IT SEEMS EVERYONE'S HERE.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE CALLED FOR YOU ALL.
LET'S GET STARTED ON OUR STRATEGIC MEETING.


ダダン ダダン
It's unexpected that the director would forgive you for your solo action.
Is it the gathering of Breaker's troops?


THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN KEEP UP WITH THIS LAND'S OPPOSITION.
IT'S A RESPONSE TO THE TROOPS CONVENING.
I suppose so...


IF I HEAR THAT GUY HAS A CONNECTION WITH VELVET ...
VALENTINE ...
THE UNWAVERING SOVEREIGNTY !!

IF THE "KEY" THEY MENTIONED IS TRUE, THEN THEY ARE CONNECTED WITHOUT A DOUBT.
IT'S NOT NECESSARILY THAT I WISH THOSE TO BE EXPLICITLY CONNECTED ...
WHAT COULD THEY BE MANUFACTURING IN SUCH LARGE AMOUNTS...?
It could be something that Velvet-sama had left behind ...
.....
IF WE RETURN TO HORIZONT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO REVEAL SOMETHING.
Are you sure?
WE'LL CONTINUE ON OUR CURRENT COURSE.
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BACK THEN.
BE PRIDEFUL.
WHAT MEANING DO YOU THINK THIS THING HAS?
CHA!
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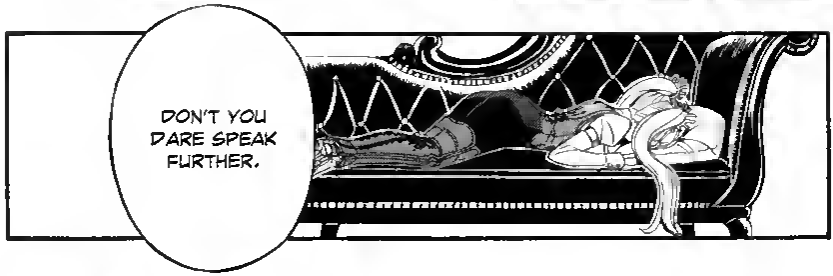
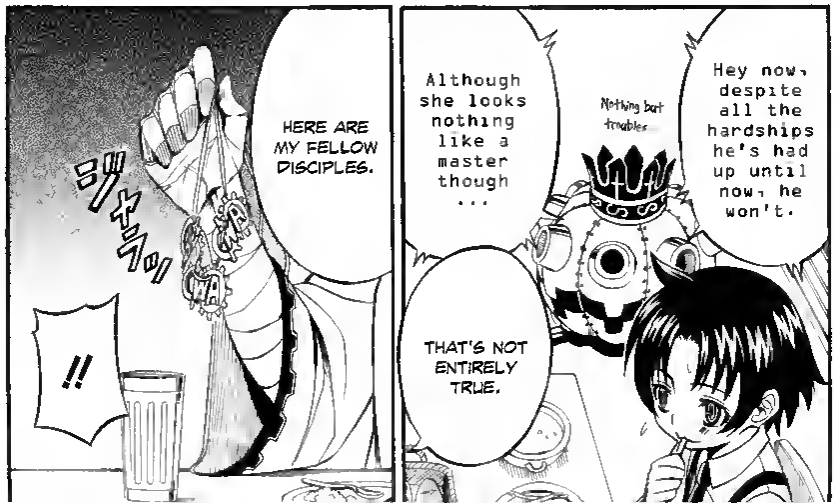
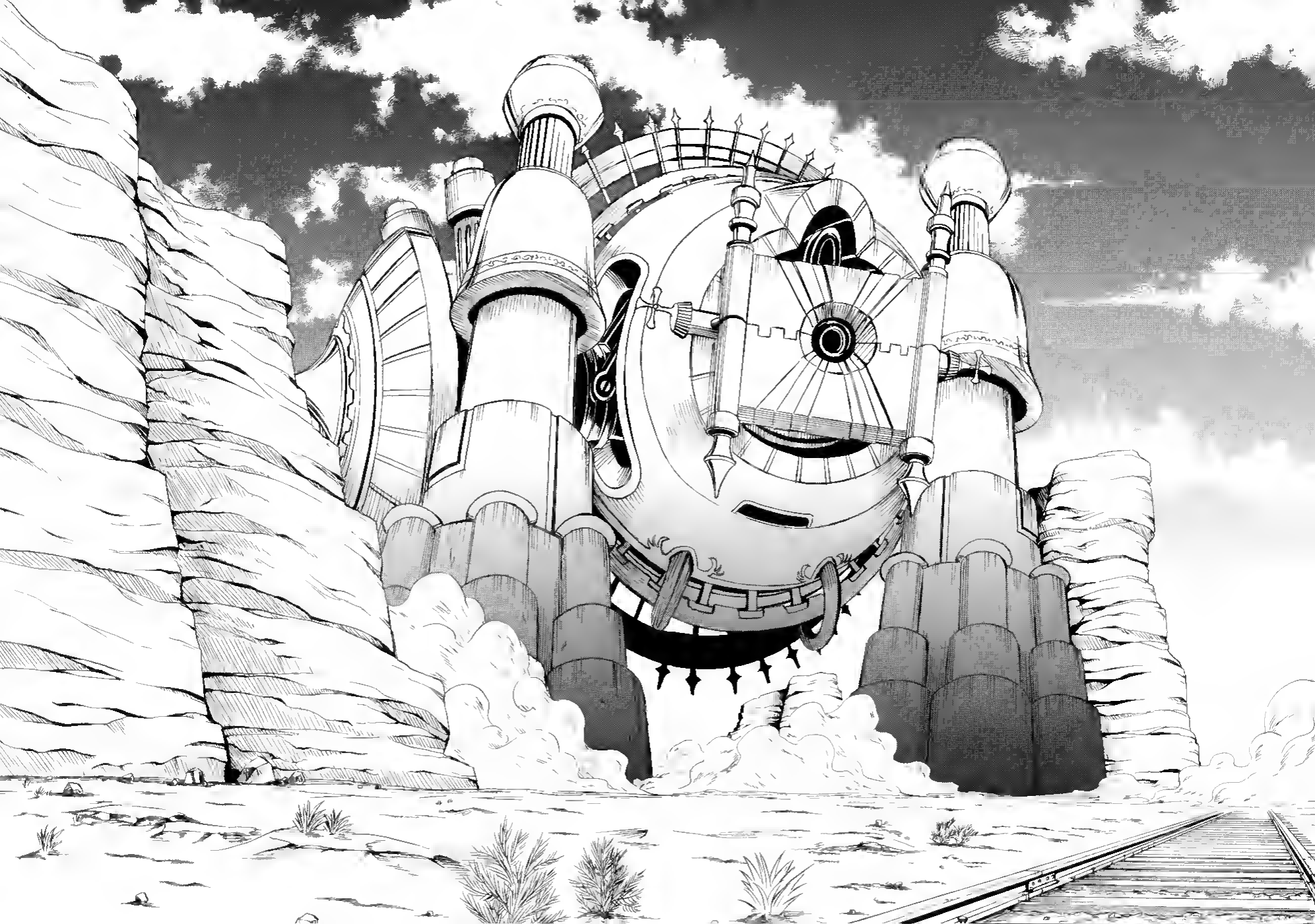
YES... MORE OR LESS...
YOU ARE MACHINA'S DISCIPLE?
ヨシヨシ


DON'T YOU DARE SPEAK FURTHER.


HERE ARE MY FELLOW DISCIPLES.
ヨシヨシッ
!!
Although she looks nothing like a master though ...
Nothing but troubles
Hey now, despite all the hardships he's had up until now, he won't.
THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE.

THIS JOB REQUIRES THEM TO BE AT DEATH'S DOOR AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
THEY HAD ALL DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AT OUR PREVIOUS BATTLE.
WHO'S AN OLD HAG!?
True strength is the rule of the CWA! Old hags can just shut up!!
Any girl over twenty years old is an old hag!!
Wha? What's wrong with hiring young ones!?
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO TAKE THIS JOB SERIOUSLY THOUGH.
WHAT!?
WHAT IS THAT!?
FII
ナニ



Hey, let me see too.
And not just your nice asses
DO WE KNOW OF SUCH A FINE-LOOKING THING?
IS IT A CLOCK-WORKER !?
JUST WHAT IS THAT!?

But, it can't be...
I believe I heard of it in the gossip that has been going around.
THAT'S MEAN...
JUST GO LOOK IT UP FOR ME.
Bring me to the research room!
Sandleon-dono!
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT THING?
Wha- Can it be that ...
Wait, hang on ...

ボッ ボッ ボッ ボッ
IT JUST SHOT SOME THINGS OUT TOWARD US!!
ヒュウウウウ
DON'T STOP! SPEED UP!!
IT'S HERE !!

ドドド

UWAH !!
OOOO, I'M GOING TO FALL!!
THE LAST COACH DERAILED !!
RELEASE THE LAST COACH AND CONTINUE FORWARD!!

Release the couplers!!
Understood!
It'll slowly derail the entire train! Deus!!
Th-thanks...
Don't you let go of me!!
O-okay...
Not good! Here it comes again!!
!!

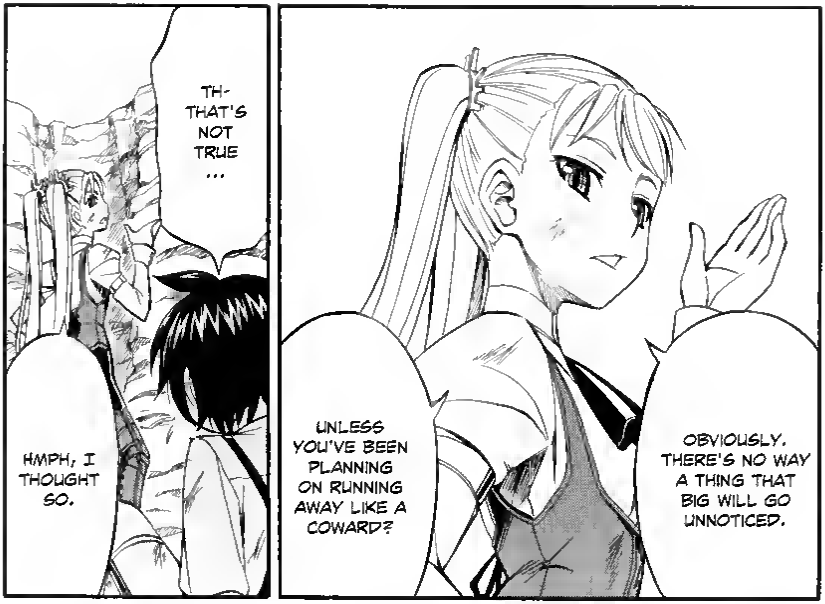
Machina-
sama,
hurry!!

パラ
パラ
TCH
OWOWOW!! IS EVERYONE OKAY!?
WHERE ARE WE NOW...?
I'M PRETTY SURE THIS ISN'T HEAVEN.
SHUT UP.
I DON'T THINK A GIRL LIKE YOU WOULD BE ALLOWED THERE.

OR SO IT SEEMS WE'LL BE MOVING ONTO THE NEXT LIFE ...!!

Oakley-dono, stop the train!!
DON'T BE STUPID! THAT THING IS COMING AFTER US!!
ALSO, THOSE KIDS AREN'T THE TYPE TO DIE SO EASILY!!
DO YOU NOT THINK SO!?
JUST TRUST ME!!
Machina-sama...

FOR IT TO LOSE US IN THE DUST CLOUD...
IT CERTAINLY ISN'T THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED.
IT'S BEEN IDLING AROUND FOR A WHILE...
ズゥン...
ズゥン...
POINT IS, THAT THING IS TARGETING US.
THOUGH IT'S CONVENIENT FOR US.
FIRST, WE MUST FIND ITS WEAK POINT.
EH... ARE WE GOING TO TAKE IT DOWN?

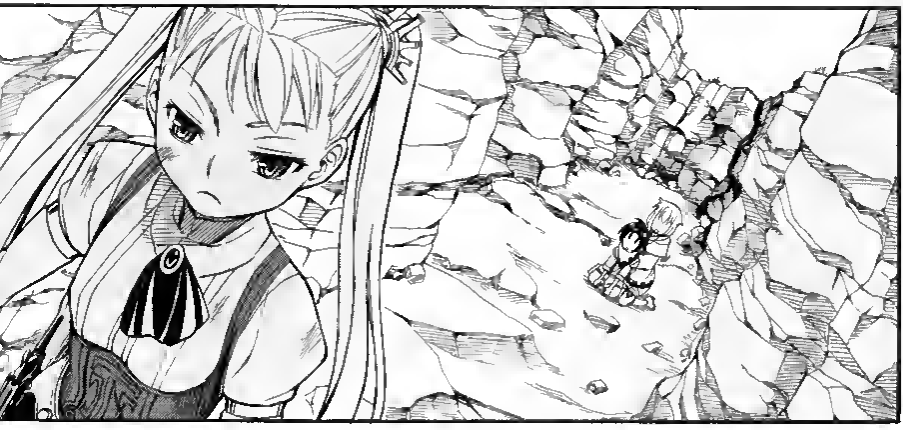

TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE ...
HMPH, I THOUGHT SO.
UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING ON RUNNING AWAY LIKE A COWARD?
OBVIOUSLY. THERE'S NO WAY A THING THAT BIG WILL GO UNNOTICED.

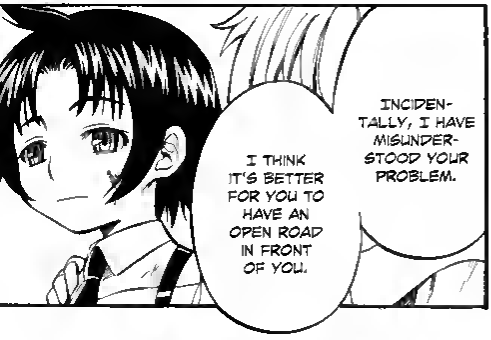
WHO ELSE DO YOU THINK I'M TALKING ABOUT?
WEAK-LINGS?

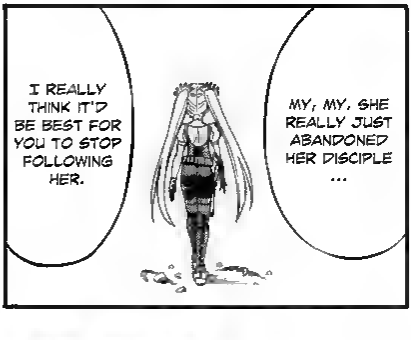
I SHOULD BE CLEAR ABOUT THIS: MY JOB IS TO TAKE DOWN THAT MACHINE.
IT WILL BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR ME TO GET RID OF ANY WEAKLINGS FROM THIS POINT ON.

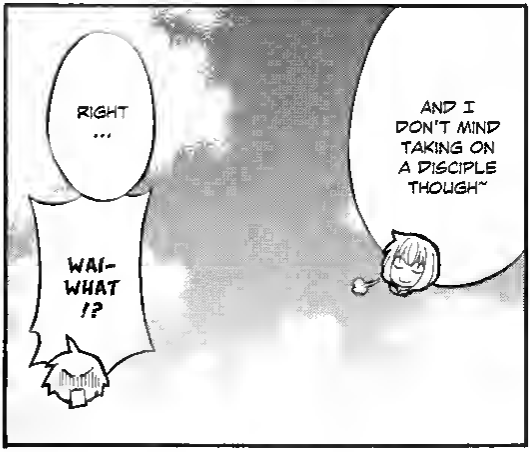
I SHOULD REALLY DEAL WITH YOU BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE...
SAYS THE COWARD WHO IS UNABLE TO PULL OFF A SURPRISE ATTACK.

IF I CONTINUE FOLLOWING THE TRAIN TRACKS, IT'LL TAKE ME TO THE NEAREST TOWN.
IF THERE ARE ANY CWA PERSONNEL, I'LL JUST REQUEST SOME HELP.
I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.
!!
I ORIGINALLY PLANNED ON GOING TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT ANYWAY.
IT'LL BE REFRESHING TO NOT SEE THESE FACES ANYMORE.
I GET IT. DEJECTED LOSERS TEND TO BAND TOGETHER SULKING.
THIS IS FAREWELL.

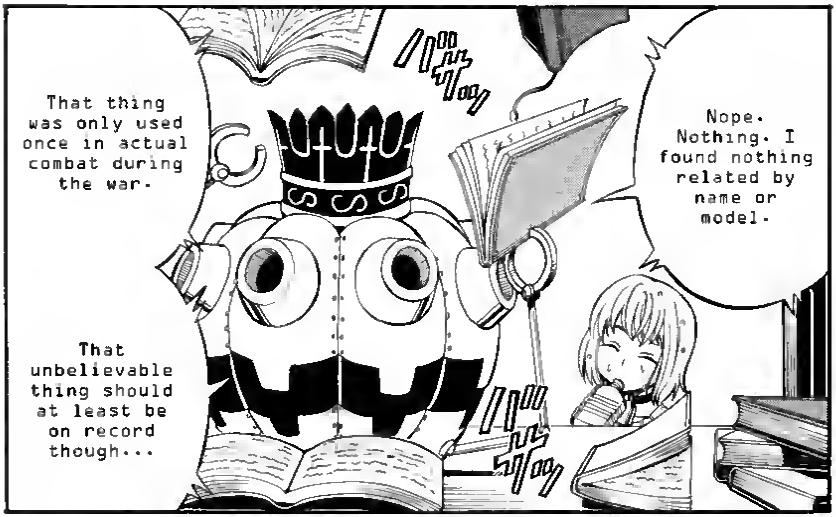


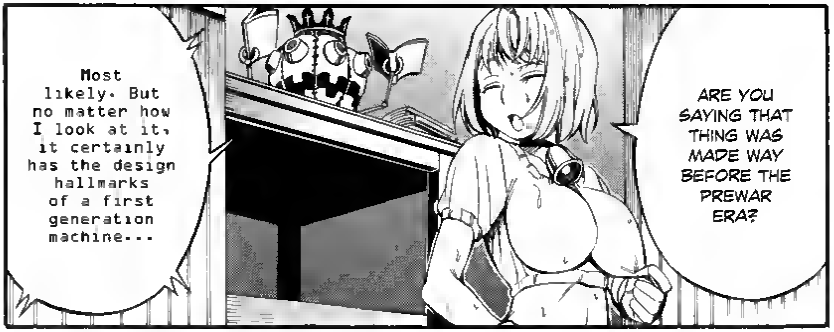

I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO HAVE AN OPEN ROAD IN FRONT OF YOU.
INCIDENTALLY, I HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD YOUR PROBLEM.

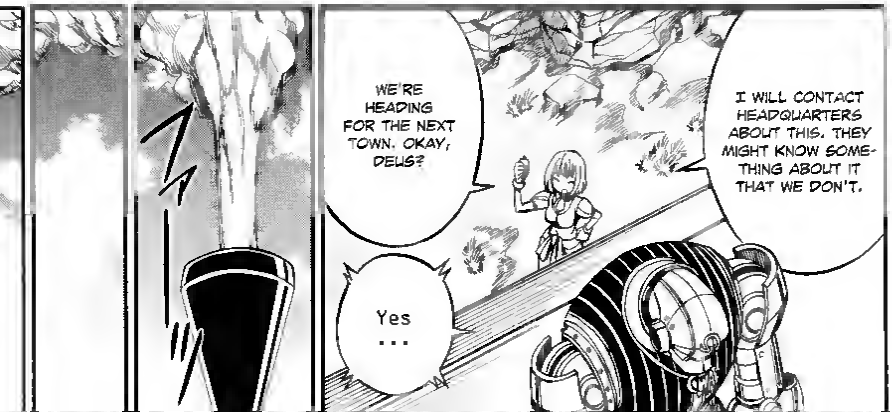

I REALLY THINK IT'D BE BEST FOR YOU TO STOP FOLLOWING HER.
MY, MY, SHE REALLY JUST ABANDONED HER DISCIPLE ...

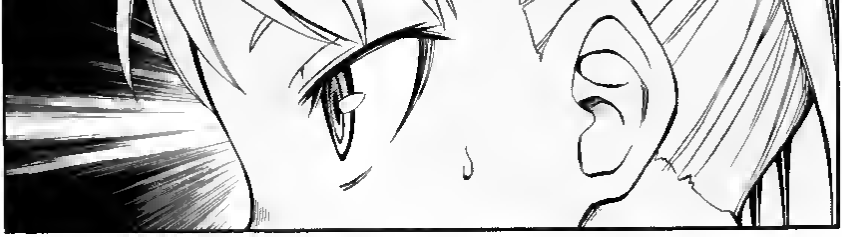

RIGHT ...
WAI- WHAT !?
AND I DON'T MIND TAKING ON A DISCIPLE THOUGH~

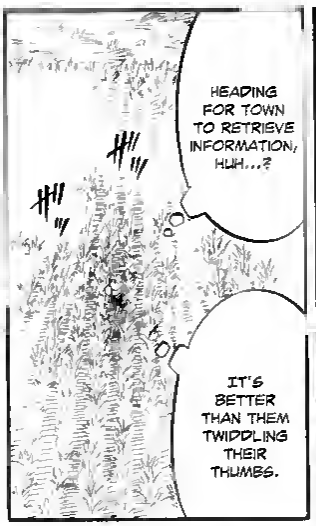
MAAAA-
MACHINA-SAMA!!
バシッ
IT SEEMS WE'RE OUT OF HIS FIRING RANGE...
IT'S JUST COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION... THIS COUNTRY'S ARMY MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO TAKE THAT THING DOWN...
マキナ様ー!!
For now, make that stupid scrap metal shut up!!
He's so loud I can't even concentrate.
DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?


That thing was only used once in actual combat during the war.
That unbelievable thing should at least be on record though...
Nope. Nothing. I found nothing related by name or model.


Most likely. But no matter how I look at it, it certainly has the design hallmarks of a first generation machine...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THING WAS MADE WAY BEFORE THE PREWAR ERA?


WE'RE HEADING FOR THE NEXT TOWN. OKAY, DEUS?
I WILL CONTACT HEADQUARTERS ABOUT THIS. THEY MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT WE DON'T.
Yes ...

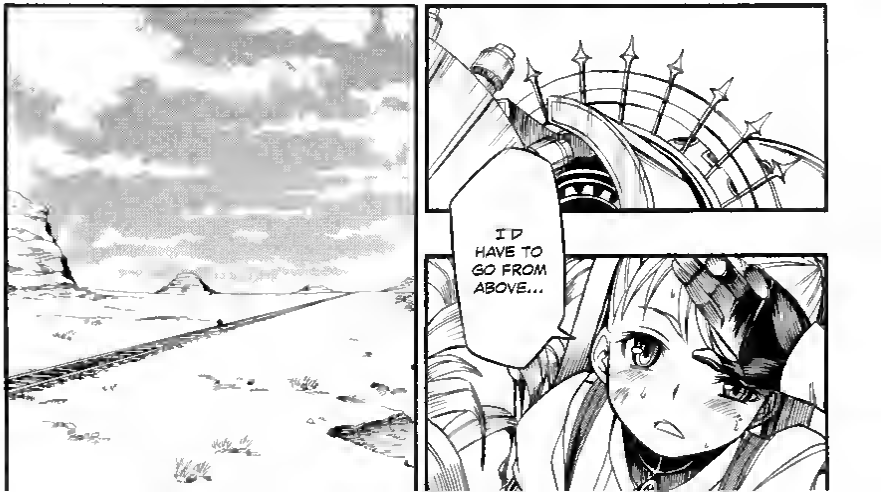


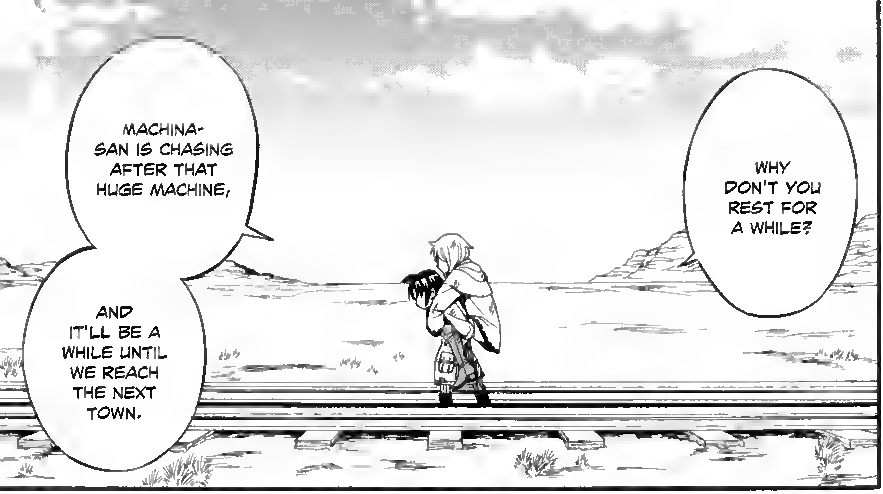

HEADING FOR TOWN TO RETRIEVE INFORMATION, HUH...?
IT'S BETTER THAN THEM TWIDDLING THEIR THUMBS.

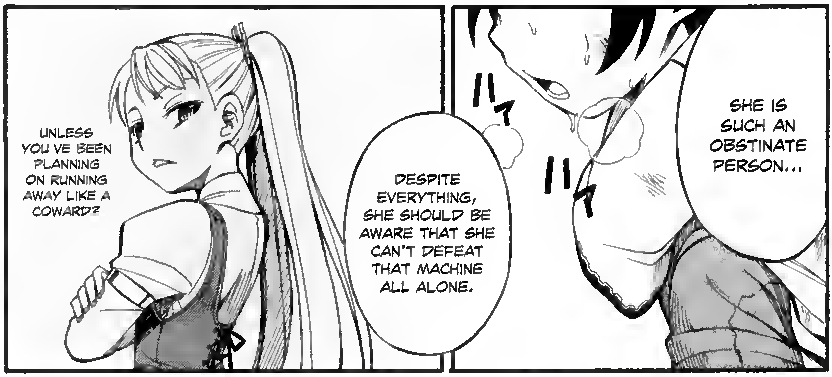
IT'S OAKLEY'S STEAM WHISTLE SIGNAL.
THIS SOUND ...
HEY, DEUS. GOT SOME WATER-
IT'S A BIT HOT HOWEVER ...
OH WELL... I'M USED TO TRAVELING ALONE ANYWAY ...

THAT WAS CLOSE!!
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
PANT
PANT
DAMN IT.

ゴオオオウン
INTENSIVE SCOUTING ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
IF THERE WAS JUST ANOTHER BLIND SPOT...
THERE AREN'T ANY OPENINGS TO CLIMB UP ON, EITHER.
ENTERING FROM BELOW ISN'T GOING TO WORK...

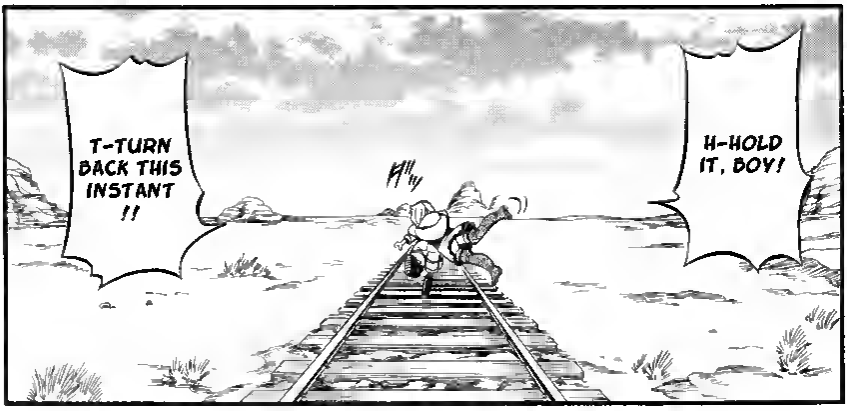

I'D HAVE TO GO FROM ABOVE...


MACHINA-SAN IS CHASING AFTER THAT HUGE MACHINE,
AND IT'LL BE A WHILE UNTIL WE REACH THE NEXT TOWN.
WHY DON'T YOU REST FOR A WHILE?


UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING ON RUNNING AWAY LIKE A COWARD?
DESPITE EVERYTHING, SHE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SHE CAN'T DEFEAT THAT MACHINE ALL ALONE.
SHE IS SUCH AN OBSTINATE PERSON...

I'M SORRY.
IT'S BETTER THAT I DON'T GO TO TOWN.
WHAT'S WRONG?
...?

I'VE DECIDED TO PROTECT HER.


T-TURN BACK THIS INSTANT !!
H-HOLD IT, BOY!

Deus Ex Machina

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